

December 8, 2020

Re: Comments on Docket 5058

Dear Ms. Massaro and Members of the Commission,

I hope that this note finds you well. I am writing these comments as the current Chairperson of the Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force (ESTF) in response to the RI Public Utilities Commission solicitation in Docket 5058 where National Grid is proposing to provide certain electricity consumer data to municipal aggregation programs in order for a program to effectively execute a competitive bid for electricity supply and subsequently enroll residents in the program consistent with RI Gen. Law §39-3-1.2. The ESTF held the public meeting for input from community members on behalf of the city on this Community Choice program for Providence.

The Environmental Sustainability Task Force is a volunteer body created by ordinance by the city of Providence. Members are appointed by the City Council or the Mayor, with one additional member appointed by the Environment Council of Rhode Island. We serve as a public forum by which members of the public can engage with the City on sustainability related issues and support the Office of Sustainability in executing their work. The ESTF voted to support Community Choice Aggregation for the City, held a public meeting to garner input from residents, and has been following the progress of municipalities toward implementing aggregation programs. We recognize the imperative need to provide new options for electricity supply to residents to increase our reliance on electricity coming from renewable sources as part of the City's sustainability plan and the climate justice plan. Of particular importance to the Task Force – and represented in the feedback we heard at the public meeting – was the ability of community choice aggregation to both save residents money and also allow lower income residents the opportunity to participate in renewable energy programs.

To deliver on these goals, it is necessary for the Public Utilities Commission to allow for the sharing of customer account information, as is consistent with how the program operates in Massachusetts with National Grid customers.

In addition, to truly maximize the benefits for all residents, the program is more effective if it is opt-out. By making the aggregation program the default supply, the program will generate significant demand for additional renewable energy, which has the dual benefit of reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions that disproportionately impact low-income consumers who contribute the least to emissions while simultaneously creating additional market pressure that will support renewable energy generators.

The Environmental Sustainability Task Force has been supportive of Community Choice Aggregation and heard from residents about their enthusiasm for the program and the need for it to work well for residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sue AnderBois'.

Sue AnderBois

Chairperson

Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force

Resident & Ratepayer in Providence, RI

Sue.AnderBois@gmail.com